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HOUSE BILL 1614

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Priest, Hasegawa and Haigh

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to improving availability of student guidance and  
2 planning programs; amending RCW 28A.150.260 and 28A.600.045; and  
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that there are  
6 many challenges to children and families in achieving a high quality  
7 basic education. Timely access to information about educational and  
8 social service resources is essential for children and parents to  
9 evaluate and make choices about educational opportunities. The  
10 legislature finds that well-developed school counseling programs can  
11 significantly increase academic achievement, improve building safety,  
12 and reduce student dropout rates. The legislature further finds that  
13 a comprehensive guidance and planning curriculum is now available to  
14 all districts in the state. It is therefore the intent of the  
15 legislature that all middle schools, junior high schools, and high  
16 schools must implement a comprehensive guidance and planning program  
17 for all students.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.260 and 2006 c 263 s 322 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       The basic education allocation for each annual average full-time  
4 equivalent student shall be determined in accordance with the following  
5 procedures:

6       (1) The governor shall and the superintendent of public instruction  
7 may recommend to the legislature a formula based on a ratio of students  
8 to staff for the distribution of a basic education allocation for each  
9 annual average full-time equivalent student enrolled in a common  
10 school. The distribution formula shall have the primary objective of  
11 equalizing educational opportunities and shall provide appropriate  
12 recognition of the following costs among the various districts within  
13 the state:

14       (a) Certificated instructional staff and their related costs;

15       (b) Certificated administrative staff and their related costs;

16       (c) Classified staff and their related costs;

17       (d) Nonsalary costs;

18       (e) Extraordinary costs, including school facilities, of remote and  
19 necessary schools as judged by the superintendent of public  
20 instruction, with recommendations from the school facilities citizen  
21 advisory panel under RCW 28A.525.025, and small high schools, including  
22 costs of additional certificated and classified staff; and

23       (f) The attendance of students pursuant to RCW 28A.335.160 and  
24 28A.225.250 who do not reside within the servicing school district.

25       (2)(a) This formula for distribution of basic education funds shall  
26 be reviewed biennially by the superintendent and governor. The  
27 recommended formula shall be subject to approval, amendment or  
28 rejection by the legislature. The formula shall be for allocation  
29 purposes only. While the legislature intends that the allocations for  
30 additional instructional staff be used to increase the ratio of such  
31 staff to students, nothing in this section shall require districts to  
32 reduce the number of administrative staff below existing levels.

33       (b) The formula adopted by the legislature shall reflect the  
34 following ratios at a minimum: (i) Forty-nine certificated  
35 instructional staff to one thousand annual average full-time equivalent  
36 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; (ii) forty-six  
37 certificated instructional staff to one thousand annual average full-  
38 time equivalent students in grades four through twelve; (iii) four

1 certificated administrative staff to one thousand annual average full-  
2 time equivalent students in grades kindergarten through twelve; and  
3 (iv) sixteen and sixty-seven one-hundredths classified personnel to one  
4 thousand annual average full-time equivalent students enrolled in  
5 grades kindergarten through twelve.

6 (c) In addition to the minimum ratios identified in (b) of this  
7 subsection, certificated school counselors shall be included in the  
8 formula according to the following ratios, phased in over four years:

9 (i) For the 2007-08 school year, two certificated school counselors  
10 to one thousand annual average full-time equivalent students enrolled  
11 in grades six through twelve;

12 (ii) For the 2008-09 school year, three certificated school  
13 counselors to one thousand annual average full-time equivalent students  
14 enrolled in grades six through twelve;

15 (iii) For the 2009-10 school year, four certificated school  
16 counselors to one thousand annual average full-time equivalent students  
17 enrolled in grades six through twelve;

18 (iv) For the 2010-11 school year and thereafter, five certificated  
19 school counselors to one thousand annual average full-time equivalent  
20 students enrolled in grades six through twelve.

21 (d) In the event the legislature rejects the distribution formula  
22 recommended by the governor, without adopting a new distribution  
23 formula, the distribution formula for the previous school year shall  
24 remain in effect: PROVIDED, That the distribution formula developed  
25 pursuant to this section shall be for state apportionment and  
26 equalization purposes only and shall not be construed as mandating  
27 specific operational functions of local school districts other than  
28 those program requirements identified in RCW 28A.150.220 and  
29 28A.150.100. The enrollment of any district shall be the annual  
30 average number of full-time equivalent students and part time students  
31 as provided in RCW 28A.150.350, enrolled on the first school day of  
32 each month and shall exclude full-time equivalent students with  
33 disabilities recognized for the purposes of allocation of state funds  
34 for programs under RCW 28A.155.010 through 28A.155.100. The definition  
35 of full-time equivalent student shall be determined by rules of the  
36 superintendent of public instruction: PROVIDED, That the definition  
37 shall be included as part of the superintendent's biennial budget  
38 request: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That any revision of the present

1 definition shall not take effect until approved by the house  
2 appropriations committee and the senate ways and means committee:  
3 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the office of financial management shall make  
4 a monthly review of the superintendent's reported full-time equivalent  
5 students in the common schools in conjunction with RCW 43.62.050.

6 (3)(a) Certificated instructional staff shall include those persons  
7 employed by a school district who are nonsupervisory employees within  
8 the meaning of RCW 41.59.020(8): PROVIDED, That in exceptional cases,  
9 people of unusual competence but without certification may teach  
10 students so long as a certificated person exercises general  
11 supervision: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the hiring of such classified  
12 people shall not occur during a labor dispute and such classified  
13 people shall not be hired to replace certificated employees during a  
14 labor dispute.

15 (b) Certificated administrative staff shall include all those  
16 persons who are chief executive officers, chief administrative  
17 officers, confidential employees, supervisors, principals, or assistant  
18 principals within the meaning of RCW 41.59.020(4).

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.045 and 2006 c 117 s 2 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) (~~The legislature encourages~~) Each middle school, junior high  
22 school, and high school (~~to~~) shall implement a comprehensive guidance  
23 and planning program for all students. The purpose of the program is  
24 to support students as they navigate their education and plan their  
25 future; encourage an ongoing and personal relationship between each  
26 student and an adult in the school; and involve parents in students'  
27 educational decisions and plans.

28 (2) A comprehensive guidance and planning program is a program that  
29 contains at least the following components:

30 (a) A curriculum intended to provide the skills and knowledge  
31 students need to select courses, explore options, plan for their  
32 future, and take steps to implement their plans. The curriculum may  
33 include such topics as analysis of students' test results; diagnostic  
34 assessments of students' academic strengths and weaknesses; use of  
35 assessment results in developing students' short-term and long-term  
36 plans; assessments of student interests and aptitude; goal-setting

1 skills; planning for high school course selection; independent living  
2 skills; and postsecondary options and how to access them;  
3 (b) Regular meetings between each student and a teacher who serves  
4 as an advisor throughout the student's enrollment at the school;  
5 (c) Student-led conferences with the student's parents, guardians,  
6 or family members and the student's advisor for the purpose of  
7 demonstrating the student's accomplishments; identifying weaknesses;  
8 planning and selecting courses; and setting long-term goals; and  
9 (d) Data collection that allows schools to monitor students'  
10 progress.

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